

NBC BRIEFING

12 June 1957

MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

- I. **Nasr lost more ground last week as split in Arab world widened and pro-Egyptian leaders were defeated in Lebanese elections.**
 - A. **Saud visit to Amman accompanied by virtual rupture in Jordan-Egyptian relations.**
 1. **Hussain expelled Egyptian military attache and consul general in Jerusalem on 10 June for subversion. Egyptians *CLAIMING ~~WENT~~ FRAMES - UP* say "~~we~~ ~~are~~ framed," but Jordanians fully justified. Jordanians also demanded withdrawal of Syrian military attache.**
 2. **Egyptians in retaliation have expelled Jordanian ambassador, who commented "they have gone crazy and it will reflect on them more than on us."**
 3. **Cairo press and radio excoriate Hussain, accuse Jordan of "treachery" to Arab cause.**

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D. Trip of Syrian President Quwatli to Egypt seems effort to steal thunder from Saud visit to Amman. Quwatli, however, also reported attempting persuade Nasr to reduce pro-Egyptian, leftist pressure in Syria.

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E. Egyptian-dominated Arab Joint Command, which has been used by Cairo to extend political influence in Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, now of greatly reduced prestige and effectiveness.

II. Indications of Saudi rapprochement with Iraq, traditional dynastic enemy, continue. New cabinet in Iraq, following resignation of Premier Nuri Said on 8 June, May be formed end of week around new premier--opening door to closer collaboration with other Arabs against Nasr.

III. In Lebanon, first of four Sunday elections in June for parliament brought victory to supporters of pro-West Premier Solh. Outlook favorable although election disorders in Tripoli possible 30 June.

Cairo press indicates pro-Egyptian opposition leaders defeated

9 June may attempt run again in provinces where voting has not yet taken place.

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Y. On 7 June, first Israeli-flag vessel, Atlit, arrived at Eilat in Gulf of Aqaba without incident after trip around Africa.

A. Despite Arab inability interfere with passage of Israeli shipping through Gulf of Aqaba, Egypt intends seize any Israeli-flag vessel attempting transit Suez Canal.

B. Ben Gurion last week reaffirmed Israel's intentions to send an Israeli-flag vessel through canal at a later unspecified date.

1. However, semi-official Israeli newspaper Haaretz on 11 June stated Israeli gov't had given up this plan, but would use foreign-flag ships.

2. At least one and possibly two such vessels actually transited the Canal to Eilat last week. Egypt knowingly permitted passage.

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